

I would like to express my strong support for allowing cell phone numbers to be portable from one carrier to another. The only reason to prevent this is to make it painful for a customer to switch carriers. As anyone who has ever subscribed to a cell phone service knows, one of the major impediments to switching carriers is the hassle of having to give your new number out to everyone. Unless the present carrier's service is absolutely horrible, most users will put up with the pain of the current carrier because it is less than the pain of changing phone numbers.

When considering the cost to the carriers of upgrading their technology to allow phone number portability, I would seriously question the billion-dollar cost being touted by the Cellular Telephone & Internet Association. But even if their dubious number is accurate, I think most consumers, if given the choice would pay a little extra to be able to have phone number portability. At a cost of \$8/year in the first year and \$4/year thereafter (using the billion-dollar estimate) this would be a pittance compared to the typical yearly cost of a cell phone subscription at about \$500/yr.

Its quite obvious that the cell phone service providers are trying to give consumer's less choice, and simply want to lock users in to their service. In addition, the local phone companies do not want to see cell phone number portability because it would greatly accelerate the number of people who give up their local wired phone service and switch to always using their cell phone for all of their calls.

I strongly believe the FCC's role is to provide an environment where the consumer can make educated choices and have the ability to choose the best service they desire. The FCC should not be putting roadblocks that solely benefit the carriers at the expense of the customers they are supposed to serve.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.